

Remarks

The Office considered claims 12-20 and 22-26, rejecting claims 12-20, 22, and 23, and objecting to claims 24-26.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Office rejects claims 12-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, alleging that the instant methods are not enabled for the full scope of the claim. In response, Applicants have amended the claim to recite that the method is directed to inducing production of isoflavones, for which Applicants are enabled for the full claim scope. Applicants note that previous claim 1 was directed to methods of inducing production of isoflavones in plants, so the Office has already searched this aspect of the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment is fully responsive to the rejection and that amended claims 12-20 and 22 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103 and Claim Objections

The Office rejects claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ning et al. (CN 1061888) and Stoller (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,923). Claims 24-26 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but considered allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the rejection and objection, Applicants have amended claim 23 to include species recited in each of claims 24-26 and have canceled claims 24-26. This amendment is fully responsive to the rejection and objections.

Conclusion

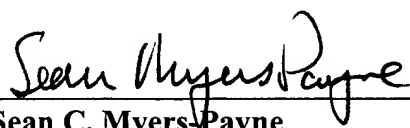
Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments are fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and place the claims in condition for allowance.

Application No. 09/781,695
Attorney Docket No. 22727/04056
Response to Office Action

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

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